

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Page 16, line 28, ~~In particular,~~

Page 17, line 2, change "the" to --The--.

Page 17, line 5, after "constraint", add --.--.

Page 17, line 8, change "the" to --The--.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Therese A. Hendricks on 11/23/2004.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art teaches of processing a grid layout wherein a fiducial graph for a grid in a given dimension is generated, traversing the fiducial graph and combining the size preferences of the constraints into a size preference for the grid; then, assigning positions to the grid fiducials by allocating sizes within the assigned grid size to the grid constraints in the given dimension, and assigning positions to the grid fiducials by traversing the fiducial graph, allocating sizes within the grid size to the grid constraints in the given dimension.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blake E. Betz whose telephone number is (703) 605-4584. The examiner can normally be reached on M – F from 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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